

OFFICE OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT

MEETING OF THE ENERGY REVIEW TEAM

PUBLIC SESSION

April 30, 2009

The first meeting of the OERR Energy Review Team was held on Thursday, April 30, 2009 in Public Session in the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, Rhode Island pursuant to notice of the meeting to all Members and public notice of meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by applicable Rhode Island Law.

The following Members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Dr. Jeff Seemann, Chairperson; Andy Dzykewicz, Vice-Chairperson; Thomas Ahern; Beth Cotter; John Farley; Kevin Flynn; Dr. Marie Ganim; Samuel Krasnow; J. Michael Saul. Noreen Shawcross was absent from the meeting but represented by her designate Michael Tondra who participated on her behalf.

Also attending the meeting were panel staff and members of the general public. Dr. Seemann presided over the meeting.

Welcome

Dr. Seemann called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. by welcoming everyone and asking the Energy Review Committee to introduce themselves. After the committee introductions, Dr. Seemann noted the members around the room and referenced those who would act as direct panel support to the Energy Review Committee. Dr. Seemann stressed that time is tight, tasks need to be focused, and this team needs to produce an exceptionally good state plan through a transparent and public process.

Interest in the energy arena has been on the rise from institutes of higher education, state agencies, private sectors, etc. Federal funds have been available to states for a number of years to support state energy programs for purposes such as weatherization, energy efficiency and development of renewable technologies to decrease energy dependence. While the funds represented in this federal stimulus package share similar programmatic goals, stimulus funds will be deployed with the overarching goal to create jobs.

Consideration of Operating Procedures

Dr. Seemann introduced Dr. Kenneth Payne, who provided an overview of the OERR Energy Review Team Operative Procedures. These procedures stressed the importance that the new state plan

needs to be very clear and that all planning/meetings will comply with the open meetings law.

Dr. Marie Ganim from the RI State Senate expressed that members of the General Assembly will not be participating in Phases 2 and 3 of the proposed timeline, as they are functions of the Executive Branch, not Legislative. Text was then edited under “Membership” to read, “No member of the Energy Review Team shall continue to serve if such service is contrary to the separation of powers amendment [RI State Constitution, Article IX, Of the Executive Power].”

Mr. Farley raised a question regarding appeals and Dr. Seemann stated that an appeals process for projects will be considered.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Flynn, and seconded by Mr. Saul, the motion, to adopt the procedures with the revision requested by Dr. Ganim, was adopted unanimously.

Review of Federal Requirements for ARRA

Dr. Kenneth Payne next reviewed the federal requirements to guide the development of a state plan. The metrics presented for this plan to align with Federal goals and objectives have the opportunity to be given loose definitions. Job creation was again noted as the most important metric for the process of designing a process for disbursement of funds.

The committee then discussed the schedule of due dates for the partial/full plan as well as other opportunities, regarding energy funds, within the near future and acknowledged that the development of a state plan will play an ongoing dual use for application to other future funding opportunities.

Consideration of Work Program

Dr. Seemann expressed his interest in satisfying the highest standard possible before creating an RFP, and unless objected by members of the committee, has brought together a staff team to begin preparation for this state plan. Dr. Payne was given the floor to describe the Work Plan Timeline presented to the committee members. While going through the timeline, Janet Keller from the Office of Energy Resources proposed that they look to other state plans as a guide. Ms. Keller also agreed to contact DOE to investigate matters regarding extending the deadline due to time constraints.

Dr. Payne explained that the major workloads for this plan would come in Phases 1, which needs to be completed in order to must submit an application package to DOE on May 12, and Phase 2 (as proposed by the timeline), where by June 17th, the OERR will need to announce initial use of 10% of the funds. The remaining percentage (40%, and later the remaining 50%) will be triggered by the initial 10% and approval of the state plan by the Department of Energy. There

was consensus that the Energy Review Team would provide advise the OERR and the OER on the application package as a whole, including possible allocation of funding, as well as on the state plan.

Review of Outline

Dr. Seemann once again opened the floor to Dr. Payne who presented the proposed outline for the state master plan. Dr. Payne noted that most of the information needed to fill in the gaps can be pulled from existing documents, and offered to provide committee members with a draft plan by Wednesday, May 6th, 2009. Dr. Seemann informed the committee that the selected staff team would work to populate the outline. The Panel would then be asked to edit the draft. To facilitate staff work, Dr. Seemann requested that the Panel review the outline and send to Dr. Payne or Andy Dzykewicz by the end of the work week any comments, especially those regarding sections that might not be necessary in the final document.

Other Business

A member of the public commented that various funding applications are due in the coming month and requested the Panel take this in consideration when designing an RFP.

Counsel Stolzman recommended that the panel adopt the following resolution for the record reconciling their intention to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act and the expeditious manner with which the group must act to assure Rhode Island secures ARRA

funding.

Whereas, persistent and high unemployment in Rhode Island is a threat to public welfare;

Whereas, Rhode Island need to access and apply for federal funds authorized pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in order to reduce persistent and high unemployment in Rhode Island; and Whereas, Rhode Island's Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment assigned certain advisory powers to the Energy Review Team,

Resolved: The OERR Energy Review Team finds their meeting federal deadlines resulting from the ARRA is essential to avoiding imminent peril to the public welfare and hereby adopts the practices and procedures set forth on its agenda and at its meeting dated April 30, 2009 until subsequent policies and procedures are adopted.

A motion to adopt the resolution drafted by Mr. Stolzman was duly made by Mr. Dzykewicz and seconded by Mr. Ahern, the motion was adopted unanimously.

Committee members will be polled for future meeting dates and a schedule will be distributed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Kristen A. Coogan

Secretary